II Amendment To The Claims

Applicant amends claims 3, 16 and 29–31, as set forth below in the following complete listing of all of the claims in the application, with the status of each claim noted parenthetically in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1. (previously presented) A method for the disinfection of air, comprising the distributing or atomizing of an antimicrobial composition, wherein a concentration of the antimicrobial composition of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m^3 of air is adjusted by said distributing or atomizing of said antimicrobial composition, and/or exchanging air systems are adjusted to achieve a dosage of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m^3 of air per hour, and/or a permanent concentration of from 5 to 10 ppb of the antimicrobial composition is achieved, wherein said antimicrobial composition is free from ethanol and isopropanol and comprises

(a) propylene glycol; and

(b) one or more flavoring agents selected from tannins; and lactic acid.

Claim 2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises

from 0.1 to 99.9% by weight of propylene glycol;

from 0.01 to 25% by weight of and optionally

from 0.01 to 70% by weight of lactic acid.

Claim 3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial composition ~~consists essentially of~~: further comprises benzyl alcohol and propylene glycol, tannins;, and lactic acid.

Claim 4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial composition contains further comprises benzyl alcohol.

Claim 5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein said antimicrobial composition further comprises hydrocinnamic alcohol.

Claim 6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein said antimicrobial composition further comprises lactic acid.

Claim 7. (canceled)

Claim 8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises

from 0.1 to 99% by weight, of benzyl alcohol;

from 0 to 99.8% by weight of propylene glycol; and

from 0.01 to 25% by weight of tannins; and optionally

from 0.01 to 70% by weight, of lactic acid.

Claim 9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein said alcohol component of said antimicrobial composition comprises from 0.1 to 10% by weight of benzyl alcohol and from 90 to 99.9% by weight of propylene glycol.

Claim 10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises additional GRAS flavoring agents selected from (c) phenols, (d) esters, (e) terpenes, (f) acetals, (g) aldehydes, and (h) essential oils.

Claim 11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said antimicrobial composition contains from 0.001 to 25% by weight of said additional GRAS flavoring agents (c) to (h).

Claim 12. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said additional GRAS flavoring agents are phenols (c) and/or essential oils (h).

Claim 13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial composition does not contain any derivatives of said GRAS flavoring agents.

Claim 14. (canceled)

Claim 15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises from 0.1 to 20% by weight of benzyl alcohol and from 0.01 to 10% by weight of tannins.

Claim 16. (currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the antimicrobial composition further comprises water and the water content of said antimicrobial composition is less than 35% by weight.

Claim 17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said composition

(a) further comprises emulsifiers, stabilizers, antioxidants, preservatives, solvents, and/or carrier materials.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said atomizing of said antimicrobial composition is effected by a two-fluid nozzle system, evaporation system or a bubbler installation for the air, or in a special design for packaging.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a concentration of said antimicrobial composition of from 0.01 to 0.1 ml per m^3 of air is adjusted by said distributing or atomizing of said antimicrobial composition, and/or exchanging air systems are adjusted to achieve a dosage of from 0.01 to 0.1 ml per m^3 of air per hour.

Claims 20–21. (canceled)

Claim 22. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition for the disinfection of air, that can be added to the air in a dosage of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m^3 of air per hour and be an effective disinfectant in a concentration of from 5 to 10 ppb air, wherein said composition is free from ethanol and isopropanol and comprises

(a) propylene glycol,

(b) tannins and lactic acid.

Claim 23. (previously presented) A method for the disinfection of air to reduce the concentration of germs selected from the group consisting of at least one of gram-positive bacteria, gram-negative bacteria, molds, spore-formers and viruses, said method comprising the distributing or atomizing of an antimicrobial composition, wherein a concentration of the antimicrobial composition of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m^3 of air is adjusted by said distributing or atomizing of said antimicrobial composition, and/or exchanging air systems are adjusted to achieve a dosage of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m^3 of air per hour, and/or a permanent concentration of from 5 to 10 ppb of the antimicrobial composition is achieved, wherein said antimicrobial composition is free from ethanol and isopropanol and comprises

(a) propylene glycol; and

(b) one or more flavoring agents selected from

tannins;

and lactic acid.

Claim 24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises

from 0.1 to 99.9% by weight, of propylene glycol;

from 0.01 to 25% by weight, of tannins; and optionally

from 0.01 to 70% by weight, of lactic acid.

Claim 25. (previously presented) A method for the disinfection of air to reduce the concentration of germs selected from the group consisting of at least one of bacillus subtulis, pseudomona fluorescens, staphylococcus aureus, aspergillus niger and hepatitis B, said method comprising the distributing or atomizing of an antimicrobial composition, wherein a concentration of the antimicrobial composition of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m^3 of air is adjusted by said distributing or atomizing of said antimicrobial composition, and/or exchanging air systems are adjusted to achieve a dosage of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m^3 of air per hour, and/or a permanent concentration of from 5 to 10 ppb of the antimicrobial composition is achieved, wherein said antimicrobial composition is free from ethanol and isopropanol and comprises

(a) propylene glycol; and

(b) one or more flavoring agents selected from

tannins; and

lactic acid.

Claim 26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises

from 0.1 to 99.9% by weight, of propylene glycol; and

from 0.01 to 25% by weight, of tannins; and optionally

from 0.01 to 70% by weight, of lactic acid.

Claim 27. (previously presented) A method for the disinfection of air to reduce the concentration of bacillus anthracis, said method, comprising the distributing or atomizing of an antimicrobial composition, wherein a concentration of the antimicrobial composition of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m^3 of air is adjusted by said distributing or atomizing of said antimicrobial composition, and/or exchanging air systems are adjusted to achieve a dosage of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m^3 of air per hour, and/or a permanent concentration of from 5 to 10 ppb of the antimicrobial composition is achieved, wherein said antimicrobial composition is free from ethanol and isopropanol and comprises

(a) propylene glycol; and

(b) one or more flavoring agents selected from

tannins; and lactic acid.

Claim 28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises

from 0.1 to 99.9% by weight, of propylene glycol; and

from 0.01 to 25% by weight, of tannins; and

from 0.01 to 70% by weight, of lactic acid.

Claim 29. (currently amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein said antimicrobial composition ~~consists essentially of~~ further comprises:

benzyl alcohol and propylene glycol, tannins, and

lactic acid.

Claim 30. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~27~~ 29, wherein the alcohol constituent of said antimicrobial composition further comprises

~~benzyl alcohol and~~

~~propylene glycol~~ hydrocinnamic alcohol.

Claim 31. (currently amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein said antimicrobial composition further comprises ~~benzyl alcohol~~ at least one of orange, lemon grass or mixtures thereof.